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The Portland Observer

Speak up on future transportation projects



Help shape local, regional and statewide transportation funding decisions for the next four years. Public comments on regional and state projects will be taken through Monday, Dec. 6, 2004.

Metro's \$60.5 million draft Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (called Transportation Priorities 2006-09) outlines proposed regional transportation projects in the Portland metropolitan area.

The \$1 billion draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program is the Oregon Department of Transportation's capital improvement plan that identifies the highest-priority state transportation projects proposed for 2006-09.

Meetings to take comments on local and/or statewide transportation projects will be held as follows:

METRO AND ODOT MEETINGS

PORTLAND
4 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 25
Metro Regional Center
600 NE Grand Ave.
TriMet bus 6 or MAX
To reserve a time to comment, call (503) 797-1745 starting Oct. 20.

OREGON CITY
5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26
Pioneer Community Center
615 Fifth St. at Washington
TriMet bus 33

GRESHAM
5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 27
Multnomah County East Building
600 NE Eighth St. at Kelly
TriMet bus 4, 9 or MAX

BEAVERTON
5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 28
Beaverton Resource Center
12500 SW Allen Blvd. at Hall
TriMet bus 76, 78 or 88

If you can't attend a meeting, send comments by:

Mail: Metro Planning, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland, OR 97232
E-mail: trans@metro.dst.or.us
Phone: (503) 797-1900 option 3
Fax: (503) 797-1911
Web: www.metro-region.org/mtip

All comments are due by 5 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, 2004

ADDITIONAL ODOT MEETINGS

ST. HELENS
5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 21
Olde School Conference Center
251 St. Helens St. (near the Courthouse and City Hall)

NORTH PLAINS
5 to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3
Jessie May Community Center
30975 NW Hillcrest Ave.
(from US 26, go north on Glencoe Road, left on Hillcrest Avenue)

HOOD RIVER
5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 4
Hood River County Library
503 State St.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ODOT's program: call (503) 731-3490 or TTY 1-800-735-2900 or visit www.oregon.gov/ODOT to comment.

Metro's program: call (503) 797-1839 or TDD (503) 797-1804 or visit www.metro-region.org/mtip.



Oregon Department of Transportation



METRO PEOPLE PLACES OPEN SPACES

OPINION

Opinion articles do not necessarily reflect or represent the views of The Portland Observer

Portland Observer Endorsements

Measure 26-64: NO

Repeals 2004, 2005 Multnomah County income tax for schools, public services. *Don't cut needed revenue for our schools, senior and health services.*

Measure 33: YES

Amends Medical Marijuana Act. *Ease access to marijuana for medically-approved pain relief.*

Measure 35: NO

Limits damage for patients in lawsuits. *Don't put limits on patient rights.*

Measure 36: NO

Amends Constitution to make marriage only between one man and one woman. *Don't put discrimination into the Constitution.*

Measure 38: NO

Abolishes State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF). *Don't throw away a state asset.*

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE:

President: John F. Kerry

U.S. Senator: Ron Wyden

Mayor of Portland: Tom Potter

State Sen. Dist. 22: Margaret Carter

State Sen. Dist. 23: Avel Louise Gordly

State Rep. District 43: Chip Shields

Mailed ballots must be received at Multnomah County Elections by Tuesday, Nov. 2. Postmarks do not count.

Our Choice for Mayor: Tom Potter

The following is a Portland Observer editorial: Tom Potter is our choice for Portland mayor.

We are impressed with Potter because he has set a higher bar for integrity in politics and we like his record of standing up for social justice.

By limiting donations in his campaign to \$25 in the Primary and \$100 the General Election, he has freed himself from the special interests that dominate elective offices. It will give him great freedom to make decisions solely based on the public's interest as mayor.

Potter has taken courageous stands to support minority rights.

Two years ago, he publicly opposed former Police Chief Mark Kroeker after Kendra James,



Former Portland Police Chief Tom Potter

the unarmed African-American motorist, was shot and killed by police during a traffic stop. He condemned Kroeker's leadership for making Portland police more militaristic.

As Portland's chief of police from 1990 to 1993, he broke ground in his support for human rights and community policing. He embraced diversity by marching in the city's gay pride parade, a pioneering and historic act for a police chief at the time.

Potter increased minority hiring by 50 percent during his tenure. As mayor, he promises to hire an even more diverse workforce for the entire city. His plans include establishing training programs and internships for people of color.

Potter wants to put the city behind efforts at increasing minority home ownership and making housing more affordable. He knows a better Portland means improving the economic hopes of single moms and heads of households and improving education resources for young children.

Potter's opponent, City Councilman Jim Francesconi too, has advocated for minority populations and the disadvantaged and is to be commended for his public service. But we feel there is something special about Potter's efforts that make him the better choice for mayor.

Vote Kerry for a Fresh Start

Why it matters to people of color

by PAUL KNAULS SR.

After four years of the Bush presidency, members of the African-American community—and all people of color, must ask themselves, are we better off today? As a small business owner and a parent, the answer to me is a resounding "NO."

Unemployment for African-Americans is 10.9 percent nationwide; nearly double that of white Americans. Important programs to help small businesses have been slashed by Bush. Many of us have lost our health care coverage, and the ones who haven't continue to struggle with the rising costs of health care. College tuition and fees have also increased dramatically under this administration.

Jobs, particularly in Oregon, are fleeing our borders at a rapid pace. Trade policies that allow corporations to significantly increase profits while outsourcing jobs overseas means there are simply less jobs here at home. More than almost any other state, we here in Oregon have felt the pain of recession brought on by the dramatic over-spending of the Bush administration. Tax cuts that benefit the wealthiest among us have clearly cost a lot to those of us in the middle

and lower classes.

John Kerry recognizes this retreat of opportunity for African-Americans and is the only candidate with a plan to do something about it.

Kerry promises to restore the Bush Administration cuts to the Minority Enterprise Development Fund, a program that has provided nearly \$600 million in loans to African-American owned small businesses. There's more. Kerry also



Paul Knauls Sr.

wants to create a cabinet level position specifically devoted to helping small businesses; institute a jobs tax credit for small businesses and end tax breaks for overseas corporations.

That's the kind of attention economic development needs, not more tax breaks for the rich.

Since Bush took office, 180,000 Oregonians have lost their health coverage. Those of us fortunate enough to still have health care coverage have seen the costs skyrocket. Annual health care premiums for Oregon families have increased almost \$3,700 under Bush. But premiums are just part of the cost increases; doctor co-pays and prescription drug costs are also up. Bush has no plan to fix these problems—he won't even acknowledge that a problem exists. John Kerry does, and he starts by making sure that all children in Oregon will have

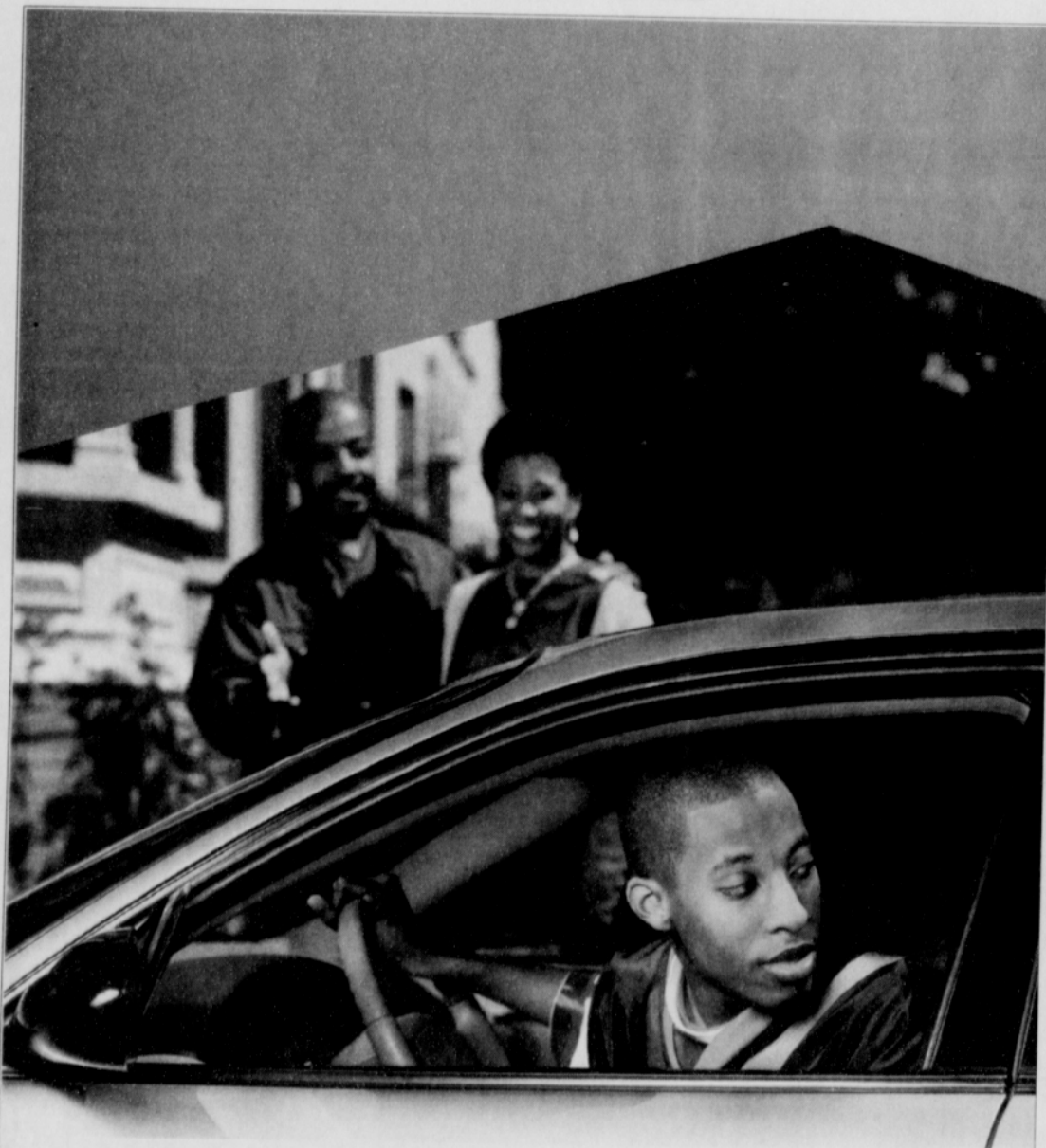
health care coverage.

Kerry has also pledged to reverse the drastic cost increases and to tear down the new barriers to a college education that have arisen under Bush. Kerry would provide tuition tax credits of up to \$4,000. That's particularly important for our young people. In a time when African-American youth are increasingly priced out of college, the end result has been a dramatic increase in the number of our children who end up behind bars. We must, as John Kerry says, build a ladder for our young people to climb from elementary school straight through college if we are to provide them with the economic opportunities that can sustain our families and our communities.

These are concrete proposals, not sound bites that will dramatically help African-Americans regain some of the economic footing we've lost under the Bush administration. All we've ever asked for is the opportunity to make it on our own. Under George Bush, we've lost ground and far too many of our families are hanging on by their fingernails.

After four years of Republican rule, we know it's just not working, and Bush has no plan to make it work. It's time for change, time for a fresh start. Please join me in voting for John Kerry for President.

Paul Knauls Sr. is a long-time African-American businessman and civil rights activist in north and northeast Portland.



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